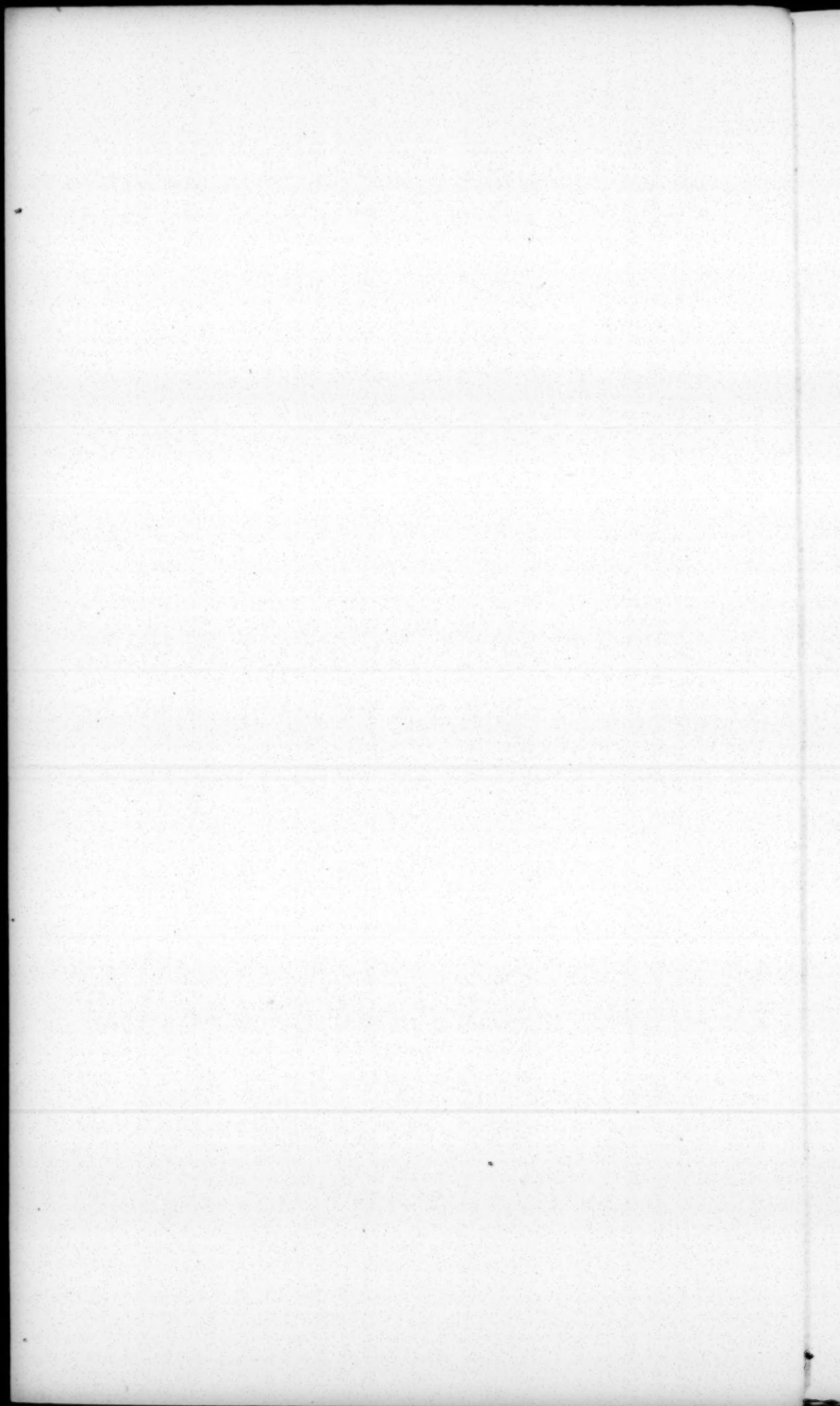


A
CATALOGUE
OF
ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS,
COLLECTED IN
INDOOSTAN.

BY Mr. SAMUEL GUISE,
SURGEON TO THE GENERAL HOSPITAL AT SURAT.

From the Year 1777 till 1792.



ADVERTISEMENT.

IT is necessary to observe, that in any country where the Art of Printing has not been introduced, books will be multiplied slowly; besides, the indolence of the Orientals has always militated against their making any great progress in literature, at least such has been the case in Indoo-stan. The Arabians and Persians in former ages had a considerable share of learning; at present, among the former, it is entirely confined to reading the Koran and Commentaries on it; and, in the latter country, the continual revolutions that have happened in it, since the death of Nadir Shaw, has extinguished the little spark that remained. Besides the Koran and comments on it they however still read some books of poetry, particularly the works of Sadi and odes of Hafiz. During the reign of Ackbar and his successors, Jehanguire, Shaw Jehan, and Aurungzebe, some

historians, and poets, flourished in India. The former of those Emperors, as we learn from Mandelsloe, had a library of twenty-four thousand Manuscripts, valued at thirty two lacs, thirty one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five Crowns, about thirty-four Pounds sterling each volume.

The collector of this collection has been at great trouble and expence in forming it, and he believes it to be the largest that has been made on this side of India. Among the Persian Manuscripts, No. 100 is of the 14th Century; and No. 1, 5, and 99, are of the 15th; among the Arabic Manuscripts, No. 242, is of the 12th Century; No. 243, and 247, are of the 14th; No. 244, and 271; are of the 15th. Among the Indoostan Manuscripts, the Mahabbarat is very valuable, a translation of that work into Persian, made during the reign of the Emperor Ackbar, cost General Carnac a thousand rupees, as I am informed by that Gentleman, and some others are still much more valuable.

* * Rev. Mr. Ayscough, British Museum, has a Catalogue in the Persian language, and will with pleasure let any Gentleman see it. It is supposed that the MSS. are intended for sale; but no instruction in respect of price is received.

CATALOGUE,

CATALOGUE, &c.

P O E T R Y.

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30 Dewane

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